

### III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-15 remain in the application. Claims 2, 5, and 6 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-11, and 13-15 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims may be found in cancelled claim 5 and in the disclosure, for example, on page 4, line 23 through page 5, line 9; page 10, line 24 through page 11, line 3; and page 16, line 30 through page 17, line 6.

2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, and 12-15 are not anticipated by Spagna et al. (US 6,587,837, "Spagna").

Spagna fails to disclose or suggest the following features of claims 1, 14 and 15:

generating one or more authentication keys;

providing an authentication key validity database for verifying the validity of any of the one or more generated authentication keys;

delivering at least one of the one or more authentication keys to a user;

receiving from the user the at least one authentication key to indicate prepayment for the requested service;

verifying the validity of the at least one authentication key by means of the validity database; and

invalidating the at least one authentication key in the validity database in response to the providing of the requested content to the user".

Spagna discloses a method, a computer program and an electronic store for permitting electronic delivery of digital content from an electronic store to one or more user systems. Spagna applies digital rights management for the controlling of content usage in an end user terminal. In the method disclosed by Spagna a secure container is formed that includes the digital content to be distributed.

The secure container is formed based on the principles of Digital Rights Management (DRM). Firstly, the content provider encrypts the digital contents using a symmetric encryption. Secondly, the symmetric key used in symmetric encryption is encrypted using a public key. The secret key for decrypting the symmetric key is held to the exclusive knowledge of the end-user devices that are used for the presentation of the digital content.

Spagna discloses a secure container that is formed from the encrypted digital content and the symmetric key. The secure container also includes data, which is used for data origin authentication and integrity protection. The secure container is distributed to end-user devices from content hosting sites.

In Spagna a content is purchased via a clearinghouse so that, the symmetric key is delivered first to a clearinghouse in a form where it is encrypted using a public key associated with the clearinghouse. The end-user selects a desired digital content using an electronic digital content store and registers a payment. The verified payment is combined with information on

the desired digital content and a Transaction Secure Container (Transaction SC) is formed. An Order Secure Container (Order SC) is formed in the digital content store using the transaction secure container and digital rights for the digital content. The Order Secure Container is returned to the end-user device. The digital rights represent the information on when or how many times the associated digital content may be presented.

The end-user device provides the Order Secure Container to the clearinghouse, which registers the information in the transaction secure container. The clearinghouse also checks the digital rights and delivers the symmetric key, which is this time encrypted using the public key associated with the end-user device. Using the symmetric key the digital content may be decrypted and presented to the user. The method disclosed by Spagna requires support in the end-user device for digital rights management.

As mentioned above, Spagna fails to disclose or suggest the combination of features in independent claims 1, 14 and 15: "generating an authentication key", "providing an authentication key validity database for verifying the validity of any of the generated authentication keys", "delivering the authentication key to a user", "receiving from the user the authentication key to indicate prepayment for the requested service", "verifying the validity of the authentication key by means of the validity database" and "invalidating the authentication key in the validity database in response to the providing of the requested content to the user".

Referring to the amended features, Spagna merely teaches the use of public key certificates for the public keys that are used to sign the information held in the secure containers. The public

key certificates are provided from a Certification Authority (CA). A certificate may be appended to a message, which has been signed using a secret key associated with a public key, in order to check the validity of the public key. Thus, Spagna fails to teach generating one or more authentication keys, providing an authentication key validity database for verifying the validity of any of the one or more generated authentication keys, delivering at least one of the one or more authentication keys to a user, receiving from the user the at least one authentication key to indicate prepayment for the requested service, verifying the validity of the at least one authentication key by means of the validity database, and, finally, invalidating the at least one authentication key in the validity database in response to the providing of the requested content to the user

The benefit of the invention as claimed compared to Spagna's disclosure is that there is no need for a separate connection from the end-user device to a clearinghouse, which simplifies the implementation of an electronic purchase system. This causes a significant benefit when there is a need to purchase small volume contents from a network to a mobile end-user device. Examples of such small volume contents are text message based contents. There is only the requirement to amend the authentication key to a content request issued to a network server. This reduces the delay associated with transmitting the content request and saves network resources. A further benefit associated with the method as claimed is that the authentication keys may be made available anonymously to a third party for content purchase in a manner similar to cash. The method disclosed by Spagna is not suitable for cases where no credit

based means of payment, such as credit cards, are available for the user.

Because of all the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that Spagna does not anticipate claims 1, 14 and 15.

Claims 3, 4 and 7 - 13 depend from claim 1 and therefore are also patentable over Spagna.

3. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is patentable over the combination of Spagna in view of Elgamal (US 5,671,279).

Claim 7 depends from claim 1. Elgamal fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 1 missing from Spagna and therefore, the combination of Spagna and Elgamal fails to render claim 7 unpatentable.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10 and 11 are patentable over the combination of Spagna in view of Sultan (US 6,270,406).

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 1. Sultan fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 1 missing from Spagna and therefore, the combination of Spagna and Sultan fails to render claims 10 and 11 unpatentable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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